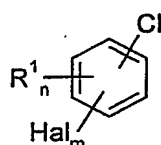


## Claims:

1. A process for the preparation of substituted halogenated anilines from substituted halogenated 1-chlorobenzenes which comprises
- reacting a substituted halogenated 1-chlorobenzene selectively with an imine in the presence of a transition metal catalyst complex and a base to form an N-aryl imine; and
  - hydrolyzing the N-aryl imine; and
  - isolating the substituted halogenated aniline.

2. The process of claim 1 wherein the substituted halogenated 1-chlorobenzenes has the structure



- 15 wherein

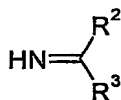
R¹ is halogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₂-C₆ alkenyl, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl C₁-C₆ alkyl or aryl;

Hal is fluorine or chlorine;

m is 1 or 2; and

n is 1 or 2.

3. The process of claim 2 wherein the imine has the structure



25 wherein

R², R³ are aryl.

4. The process of claims 2 or 3, wherein

R¹ is halogen or C₁-C₆-alkyl;

m is 1;

n is 1 or 2.

5. The process of claims 2 to 4, wherein the substituted halogenated 1-chlorobenzenes is 1-chloro-3,5-difluorobenzene.

6. The process of claims 2 to 4, wherein the substituted halogenated 1-chlorobenzenes is 1,3,5-trichlorobenzene.

7. The process of claims 2 to 4, wherein the substituted halogenated 1-chlorobenzenes is 2,6-dichlorotoluene.
8. The process of claims 1 to 7, wherein the base is an alkoxide salt.
9. The process of claim 8 wherein the alkoxide salt is sodium *tert*-butoxide.
10. The process of claims 1 to 9, wherein the transition metal catalyst complex is a platinum, palladium or nickel complex.
11. The process of claim 10, wherein the transition metal catalyst complex comprises a chelating ligand.
12. The process of claim 11, wherein the chelating ligand is a alkyl or aryl derivative of a phosphine or bisphosphine.
13. The process of claim 11, wherein the transition metal catalyst complex is selected from  $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3/\text{dppf}$  or  $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3/\text{dppb}$ .
14. The process of claim 13, wherein the transition metal catalyst complex is  $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3/\text{dppf}$ .
15. The process of claim 13, wherein the transition metal catalyst complex is  $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3/\text{dppb}$ .